GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
WATER LOGGING AND SOIL EROSION
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several parts of North Bihar are facing acute water logging and soil erosion problem;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified these areas; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 8 lakh ha. Of land in North Bihar suffers from water logging.Most of the problem areas pertain to the Kosi and the Gandak commands. The soil erosion problem exists in almost all rivers of North Bihar.

(c) As regards water logging problem, the Government of Bihar constituted a Task Force in 1987, which identified 13 Nos. of drainage schemes in the Kosi command and 11 Nos. of drainage schemes in the Gandak command. On execution of these schemes, an area of about 0.135 lakh ha. in Kosi command and 1.170 lakh ha. in Gandak command will be benefitted. The Planning Commission has so far given clearance to only 6 schemes, of which 5 are in Gandak command and one in Kosi command. The total estimated cost of these schemes is approximately Rs. 43 crore. None of these schemes have been completed so far by the Government of Bihar.

As regards soil erosion problem, Government of Bihar is executing anti erosion schemes according to their priority and availability of funds for the purpose. A centrally sponsored scheme for undertaking critical anti erosion works in Ganga basin states (including Bihar) has been proposed by the Ministry of Water Resources for operation during the 9th Plan on a funding pattern of 72:25 (central share and state share). The Planning Commission has accorded " In Principle Approval" for this scheme. The scheme has also been approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee.The funds to the Ganga Basin States for this Centrally Sponsored Scheme will be released on approval of the scheme by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.